



# Aerospace Optometry

LCDR Stephen L. Cooley

LCDR Kenneth J. Whitwell

# Recent Evolution of the Program

- The Aerospace Optometry Curriculum was approved by BUMED/NMETC in 2003.
- Navy Optometrists are now winged as Aerospace Optometrists upon completion of the Aeromedical Officer Course at NAMI, NAS Pensacola.



# Existing Billets

- NAMI, NAS Pensacola – 2 Billets
- NAMRL, NAS Pensacola – 1 Billet
- Refractive Surgery Center San Diego – 1 Billet
- The above billets will remain intact.

# Business Case Analysis, 6AN

- The BCA, co-authored by LCDR Cooley and LCDR Whitwell, afforded Navy Optometry the opportunity to re-code an additional five existing billets to Aerospace Optometry billets.
- The selection of the first billets was decided by aviation assets at the following Naval Air Stations:



# Aerospace Optometry Billets

- Phase I:
  - BMC Oceana
  - NH Oak Harbor
  - NH Lemoore
  - NH Jacksonville
  - NH Yokosuka

# Billets, cont.

- At the present the following Aerospace Optometrists, or Student Aerospace Optometrists have been assigned:
  - LT Zeber – BMC Oceana (Feb 05)
  - LCDR Cooley – Oak Harbor (Jun 05)
  - LT Birt – NH Lemoore (Sep 05)
  - LT Im – NH Yokosuka (Apr 06)
- NH Jax remains unfilled at this time.



# Billets, cont.

- Phase II?
  - Re-code to Aerospace Optometry billets for the major Marine Corps Air Stations.
- Overall emphasis is to place Aerospace Optometrists in regional areas to manage the aviation vision and vision readiness programs as Subject Matter Experts.

# The Future

- The possibility of developing augmentation platforms for carrier air wing support by Aerospace Optometrists
  - Deploy with the carrier air wings during the six month deployments (TAD)
  - Perform the same shore duties during non-deployable periods
- Preserves billets and allows for deployment coverage



# Aviation Optometry, AQD 6GA

- LCDR Cooley developed a Distance Learning Program for Aviation Optometry in 2004.
  - Allows the ability to train all Navy Optometrists
- Presently, under continued review at NOMI HQ

# Aviation Optometry, cont.

- NOMI HQ is interested in re-developing this program as Joint Training with USAF and USA Optometrists
  - Falls in line with Sea Power 21
- Endeavors are continuing to present distance learning to the fleet and joint services



# The Interim Answer

- Operational Optometry Web Site
  - With the support of CAPT Engle and CDR Barrette, an addition to the Navy Optometry Home Page will be Operational Optometry
  - Provides pertinent information to all Navy Optometrists
    - Navy Optometry involvement in **Post-Op PRK for Aviation** will be the first topic

# Operational Optometry, cont.

- Navy Optometrists are encouraged to provide additional training programs
  - Presentations are to be in power point format, and voice over
  - Send the presentation to NAMI Optometry and SL for review and submission for entrance on the web site.
  - If voice over to be performed at NAMI, send the script of the presentation



# NAMI Staff Members

- LCDR Stephen L. Cooley (PRD – Jun 05)
  - DSN: 922-2257 x1052
- LCDR Kenneth J. Whitwell (PRD – May 05)
  - DSN: 922-2257 x1051
- CDR Anna Stalcup (EDA – Jun 05)
  - DSN: 922-2257 x1052
- LCDR(s) Kevin McGowan (EDA- May 05)
  - DSN: 922-2257 x1051